



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/573,928	03/30/2006	Cristina Gomila	PU030162	5348
24498	7590	11/12/2009	EXAMINER	
Robert D. Shedd, Patent Operations			VO, TUNG T	
THOMSON Licensing LLC				
P.O. Box 5312			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Princeton, NJ 08543-5312			2621	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			11/12/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/573,928	GOMILA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tung Vo	2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07/30/2009.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/21/2009</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Reopening of Prosecution After Appeal Brief or Reply Brief

1. In view of the appeal brief filed on 07/30/2009, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. The Office Action is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
- (2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37.

The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:

/Mehrdad Dastouri/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2621

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mukerjee et al. (US 7,609,763) in view of Hannuksela (2004/0228413).

Re claims 1 and 10, Mukerjee teaches a method for the error detection and correction (col. 12, lines 43-45; the error detection and correction is used in the post-processing as deblocking filter, col. 13, lines 16-18) of at least one of a missing or corrupted macroblocks (the error data is detected in the error detection) in a video stream coded in direct mode (fig. 6, for direct mode), comprising the steps of:

identifying at least one missing or corrupted macroblock (col. 12, lines 43-45, note the error detection would obviously detect the missing or corrupt macroblocks in the compressed video steam);

finding a co-located macroblock in a first previously transmitted picture (1020 of fig. 10, see fig. 11);

determining a co-located motion vector for the co-located macroblock (1020 of fig. 1); scaling the determined co-located motion vector in accordance with a picture distance (1030 of fig. 10);

predicting (930 of fig. 10) the at least one missing or corrupted data for the identified macroblock by motion compensating data from both the first previously transmitted picture (1130 of fig. 11) and a second previously transmitted reference picture (1140 of fig. 11) in accordance with the scaled co-located motion vector (col. 15, lines 1-35).

It is noted that Mukerjee does not particularly teach temporal error concealment for direct mode for ISO/ITU H.264 as claimed.

Hannuksela teaches temporal error concealment ([0044, 0046, 0050, and 0051] for direct mode ([0033, 0036], The decoding order of consecutive non-reference pictures can be recovered using the Picture Order Count (POC) concept of the JVT coding standard that is specified for each frame and field and it is used similarly to TR in direct temporal prediction of B slices, for example. POC is reset to 0 at an IDR picture) for ISO/ITU H.264 ([0008, 0078]).

Taking the suggested teachings Mukerjee and Hannuksela as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the temporal error concealment in accordance to the ISO/ITU H.264 of Hannuksela into to the deblocking filter of Mukerjee to improve compression efficiency and error resiliency.

Re claim 2, Mukerjee further teaches wherein the at least one missing or corrupted data is predicted using a temporal-direct mode (col. 15, lines 20-25).

Re claim 3, Mukerjee further teaches wherein the at least one missing or corrupted data is predicted using one of the temporal and spatial-direct modes derivation processes in accordance with at least one criterion selected prior to such predicting (1140 and 1130 of fig. 11, Backward and Forward motion vectors for prediction, figures 13 and 14).

Re claim 4 and 14, Mukerjee further teaches wherein selection of one of the temporal and spatial-direct modes derivation processes is made in accordance with concealment region size (fig. 14, a current macroblock).

Re claims 5 and 15, Mukerjee further teaches wherein selection of one of the temporal and spatial-direct modes derivation processes is made in accordance a derivation mode of neighboring slices (1430-1470 of fig. 14, the macroblock comprises slices neighboring around current).

Re claims 6 and 16, Mukerjee (modified by Hannuksela) further teaches wherein the at least one missing or corrupted data is predicted by the steps of: performing the temporal and spatial-direct modes derivation processes (e.g. 1000 of fig. 10) defined in the ITU H.264 coding standard (([0008, 0078] of Hannuksela); and selecting results of one of the temporal and spatial-direct modes derivation processes in accordance with at least one a posteriori criterion (a mode can be selected based on an efficiency evaluation of encoding/decoding the bi-directionally predicted image using one or more of the motion vector modes; col. 13, line 50-col. 14, line 4).

Re claim 7, Mukerjee further teaches deriving a size of blocks in the first and second pictures to which to apply the co-located motion vector (1020 and 1030 of fig. 10, see also fig. 11).

Re claims 8 and 17, Mukerjee (modified by Hannuksela) further teaches wherein the results are selected in accordance with a boundary strength value of de-blocking(the decoder applies a deblocking filter to the reconstructed frame to adaptively smooth discontinuities in the blocks of the frame; col. 13, lines 16-18) in accordance with the ITU H.264 coding standard ((see [0008, 0078] of Hannuksela)).

Re claims 9 and 11, Mukerjee (modified by Hannuksela) further teaches wherein the at least one missing or corrupted data is predicted using a temporal-direct mode (930 of fig. 9; col. 12, lines 65-67) defined in the ITU H. 264 coding standard ((see [0008, 0078] of Hannuksela) .

Re claim 12, Mukerjee (modified by Hannuksela) wherein the at least one missing or corrupted data is predicted using a spatial-direct mode(a mode can be selected based on an efficiency evaluation of encoding/decoding the bi-directionally predicted image using one or more of the motion vector modes; col. 13, line 50-col. 14, line 4) defined in the ITU H.264 coding standard((see [0008, 0078] of Hannuksela) .

Re claim 13, Mukerjee (modified by Hannuksela) wherein the at least one missing or corrupted data is predicted using one of the temporal and spatial-direct modes derivation processes defined in the ITU H.264 coding standard ((see [0008, 0078] of Hannuksela) in accordance the at least one criterion selected prior to such predicting (col. 13, line 50-col. 14, line 14).

4. Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hannuksela et al. (US 6,744,924) in view of Hannuksela (2004/0228413).

Re claims 1 and 10, Hannuksela et al. (US 6,744,924) teaches a method for error concealment (46 of fig. 8) of at least one of a missing or corrupted macroblocks (dP4 of fig. 4) in a video stream coded in a predicting mode, comprising the steps of:

identifying at least one missing or corrupted macroblock (col. 8, lines 13-32, the corrupted areas, Pix4(i,j));

finding a co-located macroblock in a first previously transmitted picture (col. 7, lines 65-col. 8, line 13);

determining a co-located motion vector for the co-located macroblock (MVf, col. 8, lines 1-13);

scaling the determined co-located motion vector in accordance with a picture distance (MVf = TR);

predicting (35 of fig. 8) the at least one missing or corrupted data for the identified macroblock by motion compensating data from both the first previously transmitted picture (40a of fig. 8) and a second previously transmitted reference picture (40b of fig. 8) in accordance with the scaled co-located motion vector (col. 11, lines 13-22).

It is noted that Hannuksela et al. (US 6,744,924) does not particularly teach temporal error concealment for direct mode for ISO/ITU H.264 as claimed.

Hannuksela (2004/0228413) teaches temporal error concealment ([0044, 0046, 0050, and 0051] for direct mode ([0033, 0036], The decoding order of consecutive non-reference pictures can be recovered using the Picture Order Count (POC) concept of the JVT coding standard that is specified for each frame and field and it is used similarly to TR in direct temporal prediction of B slices, for example. POC is reset to 0 at an IDR picture) for ISO/ITU H.264 ([0008, 0078]).

Taking the suggested teachings both Hannuksela as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the temporal error concealment in accordance to the ISO/ITU H.264 of Hannuksela (2004/0228413) into to error concealment circuit of Hannuksela et al. (US 6,744,924) to improve compression efficiency and error resiliency.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Dent et al (US 6,240,538) teaches method and apparatus for errors and erasures decoding.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tung Vo whose telephone number is 571-272-7340. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on 571-272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/573,928
Art Unit: 2621

Page 9

/Tung Vo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621